

Dear FCC,I am sure you have been overwhelmed with email on this Amateur Radio Petition for Rule Making. I have a few comments that I hope will be worthy of your time and consideration.

This proposal RM-10868, when compared to the other three proposals, stands out by itself. THIS IS THE ONE, it makes a statement of where Amateur Radio should be in the future.

The 'number one' issue I see with this proposal is the lack of 'Upgrade Incentives'. AN entry level license should be an ENTRY level license, not a STOPPING PLACE for those who are not interested enough in Amateur Radio to progress and grow.

I feel a New Class of license should be created that is the entry level HF license.

Present Tech and Tech+ would have to retest for this license.

Call it Novice or Communicator, or NEWBEE, I don't care.  
Limit it to one year.

Possibly give a few more privileges than specified in this proposal, ie some spectrum on the 40 and 80 meter bands.. Not too much , but some.

Make it a once in a lifetime license, non renewable. Encourage growth, not stagnation.

This new license would be the STARTING point. Moving then to the no-code tech license for those interested in VHF, or upwards with the CW requirement to general and eventually Extra... To become an Extra, the applicant should have to present proof of activity, and must be a general for at least 2 years.

A short background.

The Novice class of the 50's and 60's was the most successful Beginners license ever conceived. Why was it a success (?) It had a time limit, one year, later extended to two years. It was a true beginner's license, the newcomer had one year to progress forward, otherwise the license expired. Those who were interested in Amateur Radio, did what was required to move to a permanent higher class license. When the time limit was changed to 10 years and renewable, those with no incentive stayed novices. This is apparent by the number of inactive novice class licensees still in your database.

The TIME LIMIT, was the key incentive to encourage new amateur's to learn and get moving. This is the one important point not incorporated in this Petition for Rule Making. As I see it, regardless of any other ideas and factors, any new 'BEGINNERS' license class must have a unmistakable , and urgent need for self improvement. Whether this includes CW isn't the question, Beginners should progress to higher levels of understanding and expertises.

If the Amateur Radio service is to survive, we need a licensing structure that demands excellences , not complacency.

Sincerely Yours  
John Wilson

